PREFACE

The principal purpose of the Commentary is to provide a basic volume of knowledge and facts relating to building construction as it pertains to the regulations set forth in the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code®. The person who is serious about effectively designing, constructing and regulating buildings and structures will find the Commentary to be a reliable data source and reference to almost all components of the built environment.

The 2018 edition of the International Energy Conservation Code is the result of aggressive efforts to maintain efficiencies provided in the 2015 edition and to provide reasonable increases commercial and residential energy efficiency requirements. Historically, the 2015 edition provided modest efficiency increases over the 2012 edition, which provided a significant increase in energy efficiency levels over the 2009 edition of the code, which in turn represented a significant increase over 2006 levels. The code change proposals are reflective of a national focus on reduction in energy consumption that stems not only from concerns about our oil reserves, but also from growing concerns over global warming.

As a follow-up to the International Energy Conservation Code, we offer a companion document, the IECC® Code and Commentary. The basic appeal of the Commentary is thus: it provides in a small package and at reasonable cost thorough coverage of many issues likely to be dealt with when using the International Energy Conservation Code—and then supplements that coverage with historical and technical background. Reference lists, information sources and bibliographies are also included.

Throughout, effort has been made to keep the vast quantity of material accessible and its method of presentation useful. With a comprehensive yet concise summary of each section, the Commentary provides a convenient reference for regulations applicable to the construction of buildings and structures. In the chapters that follow, discussions focus on the full meaning and implications of the code text. Guidelines suggest the most effective method of application and the consequences of not adhering to the code text. Illustrations are provided to aid understanding; they do not necessarily illustrate the only methods of achieving code compliance.

The format of the Commentary includes the full text of each section, table and figure in the code, followed immediately by the commentary applicable to that text. At the time of printing, the Commentary reflects the most up-to-date text of the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code. Each section’s narrative includes a statement of its objective and intent and usually includes a discussion about why the requirement commands the conditions set forth. Code text and commentary text are easily distinguished from each other. All code text is shown as it appears in the International Energy Conservation Code, and all commentary is indented below the code text and begins with the symbol .

Readers should note that the Commentary is to be used in conjunction with the International Energy Conservation Code and not as a substitute for the code. The Commentary is advisory only. The code official alone possesses the authority and responsibility for interpreting the code.

Comments and recommendations are encouraged, for through your input, we can improve future editions. Please direct your comments to the Codes and Standards Development Department at the Central Regional Office.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**IECC—COMMERCIAL PROVISIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>SCOPE AND ADMINISTRATION</td>
<td>C1-1 – C1-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>DEFINITIONS</td>
<td>C2-1 – C2-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>GENERAL REQUIREMENTS</td>
<td>C3-1 – C3-26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>COMMERCIAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY</td>
<td>C4-1 – C4-142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>EXISTING BUILDINGS</td>
<td>C5-1 – C5-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>REFERENCED STANDARDS</td>
<td>C6-1 – C6-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>SOLAR-READY ZONE—COMMERCIAL PROVISIONS</td>
<td>CA-1 – CA-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>INDEX</td>
<td>INDEX C-1 – INDEX C-10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IECC—RESIDENTIAL PROVISIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>SCOPE AND ADMINISTRATION</td>
<td>R1-1 – R1-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>DEFINITIONS</td>
<td>R2-1 – R2-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>GENERAL REQUIREMENTS</td>
<td>R3-1 – R3-26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>RESIDENTIAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY</td>
<td>R4-1 – R4-50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>EXISTING BUILDINGS</td>
<td>R5-1 – R5-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>REFERENCED STANDARDS</td>
<td>R6-1 – R6-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>SOLAR-READY PROVISIONS—DETACHED ONE- AND TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS AND TOWNHOUSES</td>
<td>RA-1 – RA-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>INDEX</td>
<td>INDEX R-1 – INDEX R-6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# IECC—COMMERCIAL PROVISIONS

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### CHAPTER 1  [CE] SCOPE AND ADMINISTRATION  .......................................................... C1-1

### PART 1—SCOPE AND APPLICATION. ................................................................. C1-2

- **Section**
  - C101 Scope and General Requirements .................................................. C1-2
  - C102 Alternative Materials, Design and Methods of Construction and Equipment .................................................. C1-4

### PART 2—ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT  .................................................. C1-5

- C103 Construction Documents ................................................................. C1-5
- C104 Fees ................................................................. C1-8
- C105 Inspections ................................................................. C1-9
- C106 Validity ................................................................. C1-11
- C107 Referenced Standards ................................................................. C1-11
- C108 Stop Work Order ................................................................. C1-12
- C109 Board of Appeals ................................................................. C1-12

### CHAPTER 2  [CE] DEFINITIONS  ............................................................................. C2-1

- **Section**
  - C201 General ................................................................. C2-1
  - C202 General Definitions ................................................................. C2-1

### CHAPTER 3  [CE] GENERAL REQUIREMENTS .................................................. C3-1

- **Section**
  - C301 Climate Zones ................................................................. C3-2
  - C302 Design Conditions ................................................................. C3-20
  - C303 Materials, Systems and Equipment ................................................................. C3-20

### CHAPTER 4  [CE] COMMERCIAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY .......................................... C4-1

- **Section**
  - C401 General ................................................................. C4-2
  - C402 Building Envelope Requirements ................................................................. C4-3
  - C403 Building Mechanical Systems ................................................................. C4-29
  - C404 Service Water Heating (Mandatory) ................................................................. C4-89
  - C405 Electrical Power and Lighting Systems ................................................................. C4-98
  - C406 Additional Efficiency Package Options ................................................................. C4-125
  - C407 Total Building Performance ................................................................. C4-127
  - C408 Maintenance Information and System Commissioning ................................................................. C4-137

---

2018 IECC® CODE and COMMENTARY  
vii
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**CHAPTER 5  [CE] EXISTING BUILDINGS** .......................................................... C5-1

Section
C501  General ........................................................................................................... C5-1
C502  Additions .......................................................................................................... C5-2
C503  Alterations ......................................................................................................... C5-4
C504  Repairs ............................................................................................................... C5-6
C505  Change of Occupancy or Use ........................................................................... C5-6

**CHAPTER 6  [CE] REFERENCED STANDARDS** ...................................................... C6-1

**APPENDIX CA  SOLAR-READY ZONE—COMMERCIAL PROVISIONS** ................ CA-1
CA101  Scope ............................................................................................................. CA-1
CA102  General Definition ......................................................................................... CA-1
CA103  Solar-Ready Zone ......................................................................................... CA-1

**INDEX** .................................................................................................................. INDEX C-1